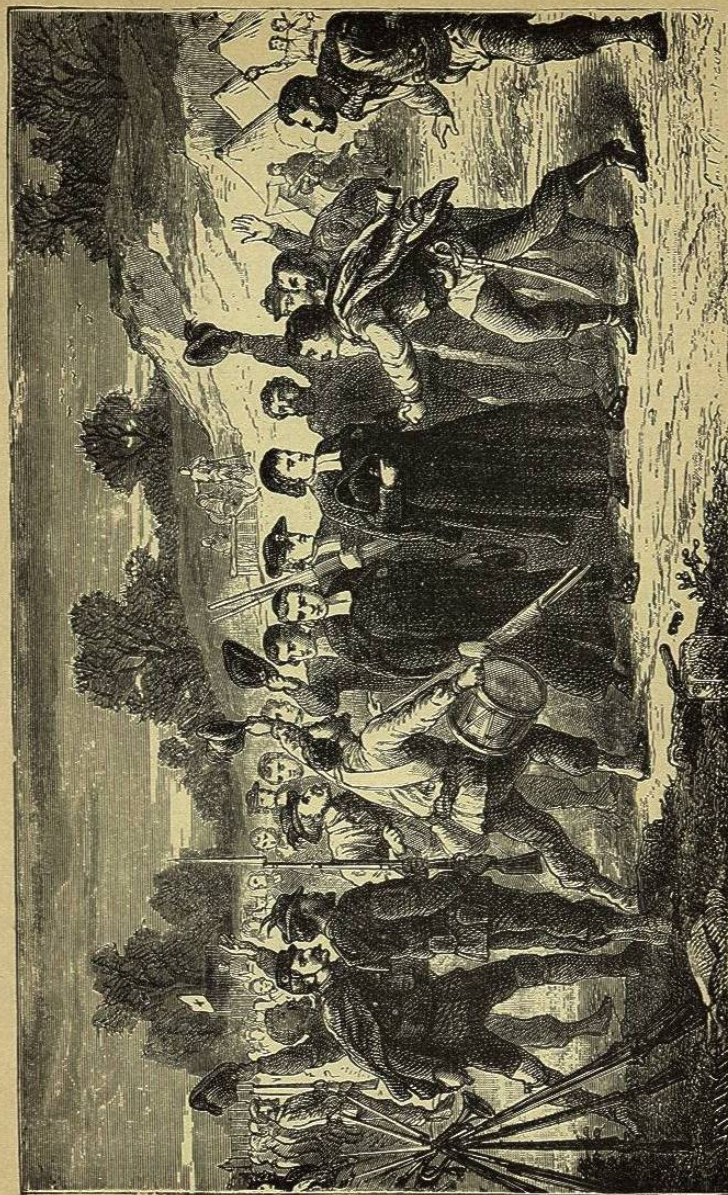


praise or reward, so its withholding did not trouble them in the least. But the reckless impiety of some, their daring profanation, as in Autun, filled their souls with grief.

We give a Lyons journal's account of this frightful desecration: "Two days after the invasion of the town by Garibaldi, a company of 150 sharpshooters arrived at the Brothers' house about nine o'clock in the morning. Without showing any order from civil or military authorities, the captain informed the Brother Director that he took possession of the premises, as a Prussian officer would do in a place taken by assault.

"The Brother, thinking he had to deal with honorable defenders of their country, received them kindly, hastened to send away the children from the four large class-rooms heated by stoves, and to have the benches and tables removed so as to make room for the soldiers. This was all the soldiers wanted; but their chief had other projects.

"To the Brother Director he abruptly said: 'You have another large room; I want to see it.' The large room in question was the chapel. The Brother reluctantly led him thither. He had no sooner entered, than he plainly showed how little he cared for the sanctuaries of religion; in the most peremptory manner he declared he would take immediate possession. The Brother Director begged him to grant a few moments, to make some preparations before the holy place was filled with soldiers. The answer of the Garibaldian was to order the men to go up. In the presence of the fearful profanations that were likely to follow, faith imparted a holy energy to the worthy son of the Venerable De La Salle. With one word he stopped the sharpshooters, and then addressing the chief, asked him if he thought himself in an enemy's country, and by what right he thus treated



GARIBALDIANS REQUESTING THE BROTHERS TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEIR WOUNDED.



French citizens, whom he was bound to defend, and who had welcomed him with the greatest kindness.

"The captain finally granted a reprieve of five minutes. A Brother hurried to a priest, happily near, and requested him to come at once and remove the Blessed Sacrament to another sanctuary where it would be respected. The priest instantly complied with the request; he was an old, infirm man: two titles to the respect of a French officer; two titles to the insults of a Garibaldian! Entering the chapel, he knelt with two Brothers, whilst a third went to the sacristy for a surplice and the key of the tabernacle. The captain, who, with his hat on his head and a cigar in his mouth, had also entered the chapel, took the opportunity to give vent to his impiety.

"'Eh! what, you are praying to God, I suppose?' he cried, with a voice husky with passion; 'I see what you are about—I tell you I'll have none of your — prayers. My men are cold—I want them in here without delay.'

"The men were cold, yet the unhappy man took them from warm rooms to the chapel, where there was no heat whatever!

"Already had the priest, anxious to get the Blessed Sacrament away from the blasphemies of this demoniac, taken the holy ciborium in his hand, and was hastily leaving the chapel, followed by some Brothers; he hoped that once on the steps outside he would have nothing to fear; but it was there he was to see the Divine Eucharist exposed to the most grievous profanation. This had become the main object of the wretch's fury, now at its height. Profiting by a moment's absence of the Director, who had left the staircase to enter the chapel, the captain crowded it, as well as the steps outside, with soldiers, just as though fearing the escape



of an enemy. Fearful of being thrown down, and seeing the Holy Species trampled under foot, or falling into the mud of the yard, the priest stopped in a corner, and let the first wave move on.

"The sharpshooters, who remained in the yard, appeared to understand his thoughts, and stood still. The venerable priest then advanced to descend the stairs, but the wretch, raising his voice, ordered his men, who, through a religious instinct had stopped, to go up immediately. In vain the poor priest said to him with the patience and meekness of Him whom he carried in his hands: 'Would you be good enough, captain, to allow your men to wait a moment till I get down?' The barbarian brutally answered: 'What for? the stairs are for them as well as for you—they are to go up; you go down if you choose!'

"Happily, God came to the aid of His minister; he recollected there was a staircase inside the house. By passing through the Brothers' apartment, he delivered his Divine Master from the wretch's fury.

"It is needless to say that, such being the commanding officer, the Brothers had to suffer every kind of annoyance whilst this party remained in the house; they were, in fact, treated with the grossest indignity, and subjected to continual insults and oppression. The bitterest thought, however, was the treatment their Divine Master had received in their house. But they consoled themselves by thinking that, if God permits the wicked to satisfy their hatred for a time, it is that He may afterwards manifest the more clearly His mercy and power. Men of faith remain calm amid the hardest trials."

What immense numbers the Brothers entertained in Pontarlier! On the 27th of January, by order of the authori-

ties, a battalion of 823 mobiles of the Rhone were stationed in their house; on the 28th, these were replaced by 798 from Nièvre Ariège; and on the 29th 810 soldiers from different corps passed twenty-four hours there, to be followed, in their turn, by 728 other soldiers, who, on the 31st, made way for 735 sick and convalescent soldiers from Besançon, Ornans, Morteaux, etc.

These men were, for the most part, without shoes or comfortable clothing, and exposed to a cold of nineteen degrees. No wonder they were all in a state of complete exhaustion.

How could the Brothers, without receiving provisions from the authorities, and with no adequate means of cooking, feed so many?

They did it; all received bread, soup and vegetables, and the fact of their doing it remained a mystery to the public. Brother Ostinian, the Director, might have confessed that all the provisions of the community, together with the bread sent by Swiss charity and benevolence, went to make up the supply; that all the available pots and saucepans were kept permanently on the fire, giving a fresh supply of soup and vegetables every two hours; that the Brothers, to perform such prodigies, slept only an hour or two during the night, by turns, on four beds, which were all they had kept for themselves, all the others being appropriated to the use of the troops; that a box of biscuits, left as a token of gratitude by the mobiles of the Rhone, had multiplied and lasted several days; all this might have been the case, for such facts were daily seen, proving the indefatigable devotedness of the faithful Brothers and the wonders of God's providence.

The sudden arrival, at Pontarlier of 80,000 men surprised the municipal administration, who had not thought, in the midst of the general disorder, to gather provisions in ad-



vance. The consequence was, the bakers were constantly besieged by the resident population to obtain the bread as fast as it was taken from the oven, even before it was fully baked, notwithstanding the presence of the newly arrived, who clamored for and insisted upon receiving their share first.

On the 31st of January, at eleven o'clock in the night, the provisions of the community were exhausted; yet there were 250 soldiers to be fed, who had eaten nothing since morning, or even since the day before. Then two Brothers, who had gone round amongst the bakers, were seen returning at three o'clock in the morning, carrying on their shoulders several baskets of hot bread, which they had obtained by prayers and entreaties.

On the morning of January 31st, when, after the engagements at Sombacour, Chaffois, and Frasné, the Commander-in-chief, Clinchant, could no longer count on the armistice for his army, the healthy men were ordered into Switzerland, for the enemy was almost at their doors.

The entry of the Prussians into the town was really frightful; most of them, over-excited, were uttering fearful yells. Whilst the German troops were passing along the Rue de la Gare, an unusual noise was heard in the Brothers' house; it was the Prussians, who, having broken in the garden gate, were furiously driving out the sick soldiers to swell the number of their prisoners of war. Seeing this, the Director, Brother Ostinian, ran to the spot; he made his own person a rampart for the sick, intimidated the half drunken Prussians by his looks and words, and rescued the invalids from their hands.

In other places in the town where the sick were being cared for, there was no Brother Ostinian to stand between them and the invaders, and, weak and suffering as they were,

they were ruthlessly torn from their beds, marched to the parish church, and there locked up. For three consecutive days, three thousand of them had no other sustenance than what public compassion gave them; and even that was fatally insufficient, owing to the great scarcity of provisions attendant on the passage of the whole army of the East through the town.

The local history of the war will show that all the religious Orders of Pontarlier devoted themselves with the most affectionate care to the service and relief of thousands of sick soldiers. Till the 27th of February, the Christian Brothers, particularly, bore up well against the unceasing fatigue they had to undergo in an atmosphere so vitiated in various ways. One of them, however, paid with his life for his devotedness to suffering humanity. On the 5th of March, Brother Redemptor-Eugene, aged twenty-four, died, after five days' illness. He had been night and day most assiduous in nursing the sick.

Hence it was that his obsequies, on March 9th, were more like a triumph than a funeral ceremony. The commanding officers of Forts Joux and Larmont sent a detachment of seventy-five men, who headed the line of march, forming a guard of honor on either side of the coffin, which was covered with crowns and carried alternately by civil and military nurses.

All the invalid soldiers of the Pontarlier ambulances who were able to walk, attended the funeral, as did also 350 of the Brothers' pupils; each carrying a wreath of flowers, which was piously laid on his grave. The whole population was represented, every family wishing to pay a last tribute of respect to a young religious who had been sacrificed to charity and humanity.



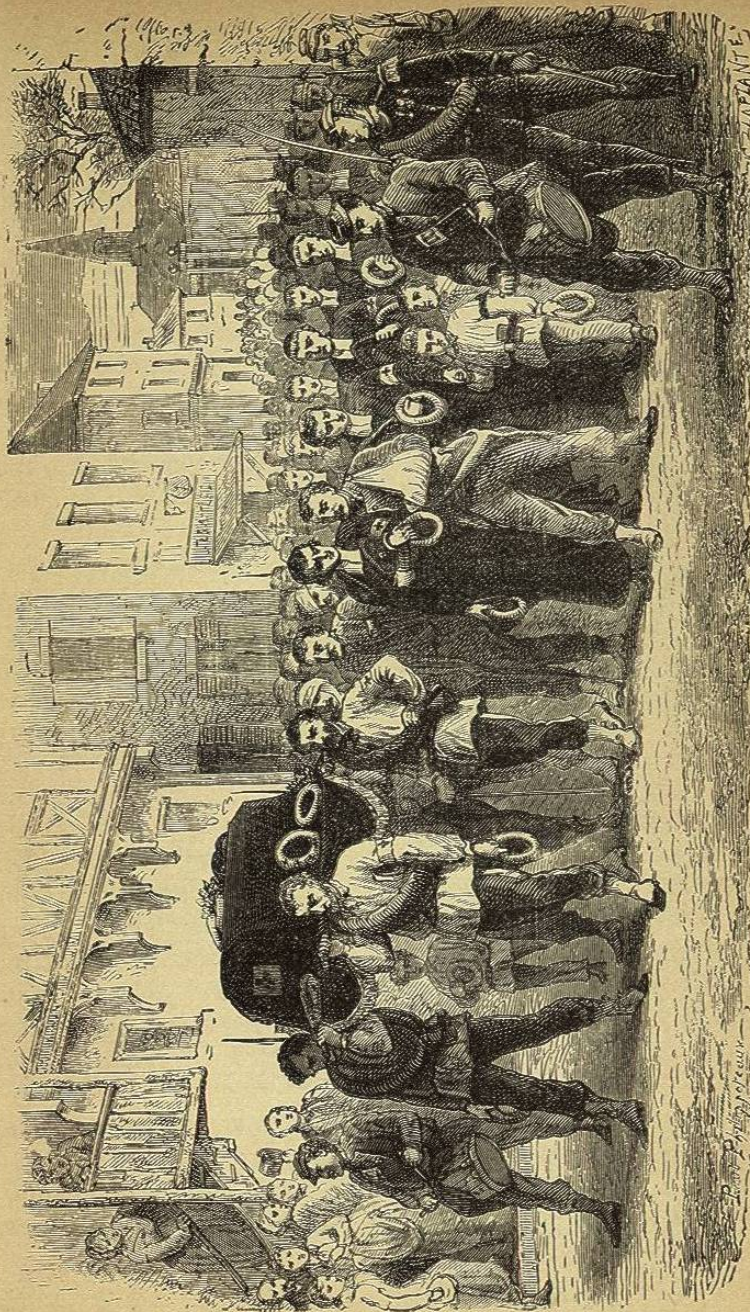
At last, thanks to the cares and labors of the Brothers, the number of sick diminished day by day. By the 10th of March there were only fifty; on the 18th, their house was evacuated; on the 19th, all the officials belonging to the International Ambulance set out for Lyons. It was time the Brothers' extreme labor should end; by the 12th of March, six of them were sick of small-pox and various fevers. The Brother Director was himself hardly able to keep up, but still managed to exercise a watchful care over the dear patients so grievously stricken. But one victim was demanded, however; all the others recovered by the end of April, by which time the house was considered safe to receive pupils, and the classes were resumed.

*Lodging of Prussians.*

If the Christian Brothers in their military lodgments had but the soldiers of their own country, or those that were fighting in her cause, to do for, their devotedness and zeal might be in part attributed to their patriotism. We are now to see them receiving and giving lodgings to the Prussians. Many of the Germans sent to them were kind and agreeable, some very pious and good; but there were others of whom the same could not be said. The Brothers, with a great number of the other inhabitants of the towns occupied by the Prussians, had serious cause of complaint.

*Beauregard (Thionville).*

The mayor, on the 15th of January, sent word to the Brother Director of Beauregard that the German military authorities wanted several of his class-rooms to be used as barracks. The municipality offered to pay rent for those rooms, and to take charge of the poor people to whom the Brothers



THE FUNERAL OF BROTHER REDEMPTOR EUGÈNE, WHO DIED WHILE ATTENDING THE SMALL-POX PATIENTS.



had hitherto given hospitality. Brother Director informed the mayor he would willingly lend the rooms without charge, the town having enormous expenses to bear, and added that he was rejoiced to be able to do something to lighten the public burden and help individuals, by lodging soldiers whom the townspeople would otherwise have had to accommodate.

From the 15th till the 20th of March, 1,400 Germans lodged in the Beauregard boarding-school. Dating from the 20th of March, 20,000 had stayed there.

*Saint Dizier (Haute Marne).*

The community here lodged 515 Prussians, of whom twenty-five were officers. For seventy days, a Brother prepared the meals for 125 of these soldiers. The house also furnished stabling for fifty horses. The yards served as a parade-ground for the numerous military barracks of the town.

*Vitry.*

On the 8th of September, 122 Germans took possession of the Brothers' class-rooms. The food, furnished by the town, had to be prepared for them. Then came 150 other soldiers, and afterwards sixty engineers. These last remained eight days; they were rebuilding the railroad bridge, which the French commander had caused to be blown up.

*Arbois (Jura).*

On the 3d of February, this establishment had to receive 40 Prussians and 35 horses. Two of the class-rooms and the yard of the house were used as stables; the three other class-rooms were occupied by the men. The soldiers took



possession of all the beds ; the Brothers had to sleep on the floors.

*Baume-les-Dames.*

January 24th, the first day of the Prussian occupation, forty Germans installed themselves in the Brothers' house, wasted the provisions, and took possession of several pieces of furniture.

*Champlitte (Haute-Saône).*

About 300 Prussians occupied the house, at first from the 11th till the 26th of December, then from the 16th till the 18th of January. The heating was at the Brothers' expense. The Germans showed but little regard for the laws of *mine* and *thine*.

*Lure.*

On the 18th of October, 200 Prussians slept in the class-rooms of the Christian Brothers' school. From the 2d of November till the 12th of January, 2000 Germans lodged in the house ; from 150 to 200 were almost continually there. The Brothers, who had charge of their cooking, were afoot from before the dawn of day till late at night. The Brother Director, in his charity, would not complain, though they wasted the fuel, and stole all they could lay their hands on. The poor Brothers came near wanting bread, as the Prussians, on their entrance, had taken possession of all the ovens in the town.

*Levier.*

The German army arrived on Sunday, January 29th. It invaded Levier and all the country around. The Brothers had eighty soldiers and several officers to board and lodge for a week.

*Morteau (Doubs).*

On February 2d, the Prussians arrived at Morteau. Forty men were billeted on the Brothers, yet fifty came, and were received without a murmur.

During their stay they repeatedly ransacked every corner of the house, and carried off what provisions they could find. It was vain to complain ; the consequences of invasion had to be borne.

At Poligny, Vesoul, Joigny, Coulommiers, Nemours, Ba-paume, Crepy-en-Valois, the Brothers had to contribute to the lodging, and, in a number of instances, to the boarding of the invaders. It was the same at Pithiviers, where their coming was like the swarming of locusts. Not a fruit, not a vegetable was left in the garden, on their departure. Devastation was the only memento they left of their passage.

*Lailly (Loiret).*

On the 7th of December, the Prussians took possession of Lailly ; thirty of them lodged at the Brothers' house ; next day, twenty-five others, and on the 11th, forty arrived. Besides fuel and cooking, the Brothers had to board these troublesome and threatening soldiers, and passed nearly a week without lying down, fearing that the house might be maliciously set on fire.

About the last of December, twenty-five cavalymen broke in the school-house door, determined to make stables of the class-rooms, but they had to give way to the energy and firmness of the Brother Director and go elsewhere for stables for their horses.

About the 12th of February the community had again to lodge some German soldiers and their officers and attendants.



*Dieppe.*

From the month of August till the month of May, the Brothers continually lodged French and German soldiers. Some came with billets from the mayor; as to the others, the Brother Director kindly took them from the neighbors to whom they would have been a burden.

And thus, in the spirit of brotherly love and charity, the sons of the Venerable De La Salle extended their hospitality to the invaders of their country.



## CHAPTER XVI.

ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS: GRATITUDE OF THE SOLDIERS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES.

We have just witnessed the most gigantic battles that have been fought in this age of blood; and if anything could diminish in the hearts of the conquered, and of prisoners, the bitterness of defeat, the horror of captivity, it would be the cares of every kind that have been lavished upon them by charitable souls, by holy priests, devoted Sisters, and the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

To take the wounded from the field of battle, to nurse the sick in the ambulances, to give burial to the dead, to assist, in a thousand ways, soldiers on the march: these are the magnanimous works performed by the Brothers with a zeal which Catholic charity can alone inspire. But the devotedness of the Christian Brothers has been greater still; it revealed itself in an admirable manner in the touching services rendered by them to the poor prisoners. Honored forever be the men who, in the midst of their country's misfortunes, gave such striking examples of patriotic virtue, and who left no pain or sorrow unconsolated!

*Corbeil.*

From its advantageous position near Paris, this town, from October, became the headquarters of the hostile armies. It was there the French prisoners stopped when on their way